

Message Text

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TAGS: EAGR,EEC

SUBJECT: EC CROP ESTIMATES FOR 1976

REF: EC BRUSSELS 8797

1 SUMMARY: A REPORT JUST RELEASED BY THE EC STATISTICAL OFFICE ESTIMATES 1976 EC CROP PRODUCTION AT 90.9 MILLION METRIC TONS. THE REPORT ALSO ESTIMATES 1976 POTATO PRODUCTION TO BE 20 TO 25 PERCENT BELOW 1975 THESE ESTIMATES ARE MADE INDEPENDENTLY OF THE COMMISSION WHICH INDICATES THAT IS HAS NOT YET REVISED THE ESTIMATES MADE IN THE SPECIAL REPORT ON THE DROUGHT RELEASED EARLIER THIS MONTH. END SUMMARY.

2. THE COMMISSION STATISTICAL OFFICE HAS JUST RELEASED NEW ESTIMATES OF 1976 CROP PRODUCTION AS MENTIONED IN PREVIOUS MISSION REPORTS, THE ESTIMATES OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE ARE MADE INDEPENDENTLY OF THOSE OF THE COMMISSION'S MARKETING DIVISIONS THE DATA USED BY THE STATISTICAL OFFICE, WHICH ARE SUBMITTED BY THE MEMBER STATES, ARE SOMETIMES OUTDATED OR INCOMPLETE THUS THESE ESTIMATES SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS A REVISION OF THE COMMISSION ESTIMATES REPORTED IN THE REFTEL.

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3. THE STATISTICAL OFFICE ESTIMATES OF 1976 EC PRODUCTIN OF MAJORK
CROPS ARE SHOWN BELOW (1975 PRODUCTION IN PARENTHESES):

MILLION METRIC TONS
TOTAL GRAINS (EXCLUDING RICE) 90.0 (97.1)
TOTAL WHEAT 39.3 (38.1)
SOFT WHEAT 35.5 (NOT SHOWN)
DURUM WHEAT 3.8 (NOT SHOWN)
RYE 2.9 (2.86)
BARLEY 29.9 (32.3)
OATS AND SUMMER GRAINS 7.8 (9.4)
CORN 10.8 (14.0)
RICE (HUSKED) .81 (.85)
POTATOES 20 TO 25 PERCENT
BELOW 1975 (33.5)

THE MAJOR UNCERTAINTY CONCERNING THE GRAIN FORECAST IS CORN;
IT IS NOT YET CLEAR HOW MUCH CORN WILL BE HARVESTED FOR FORAGE
RATHER THAN GRAIN. WITH REGARD TO SUGAR THE STATISTICAL OFFICE
REPORT NOTES THE ESTIMATE OF EC SUGAR PRODUCTON MADE BY F.O.
LICHT- 9.55 MILLION TONS OF RAW SUGAR IN 1976 (AS COMPARED WITH
10.15 MILLION TONS IN 1975).

4 A COMMISSION OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN THE COORDINATION OF CROP FORE-
CASTS SAID THAT COMMISSION EXPERTS FELT THAT COMMUNITY PRODUCTION OF
POTATOES AND SUGAR WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN ESTIMATED BY
THE STATISTICAL OFFICE THEY STILL FELT THAT PRODUCTION OF THESE
TWO COMMODITIES WOULD APPROACH THE LEVEL PREDICTED BY THE COM-
MISSION IN THEIR SPECIAL DOURHG REPORT (REFTEL). WITH REGARD TO GRAINS
HE SAID THAT THE COMMISSION HAD NOT CHANGED ITS ESTIMATE OF
93 MILLION TONS HOWEVER, THERE WAS NOW SOME FEELING AMONG COMMIS-
SION EXPERTS THAT THE TOTAL GRAIN CROP WOULD BE A LITTLE LOWER.
HE EXPECTED THE COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A NEW GRAIN CROP ESTIMATE
WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

5 COUNTRY BY COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE REPORT
ARE SHOWN BELOW:

GERMANY

IN 1976 AREA IN GRAINS AS WELL AS IN POTATOES AND SUGAR BEETS
IS PRACTICALLY THE SAME AS IN 1975 HOWEVER, THE AREA IN WHEAT,
RYE AND CORN HAS INCREASED WHILE THAT OF BARLEY AND OATS HAS
DECLINED THE TOTAL GRAIN CROP IS ESTIMATED AT 18.9 MILLION TONS
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AS COMPARED WITH 21.3 MILLION TONS IN 1975 PRODUCTION OF WHEAT
IS ESTIMATED TO BE DOWN 6 PERCENT BARLEY 8 PERCENT OATS 17
PERCENT AND CORN 28 PERCENT THE EARLY POTATO HARVEST IS ESTIMATED
AT 530,000 MILLION TONS - DOWN 28 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR.
PRODUCTION IS ESTIMATED AT 220,000 TONS - UP ABOUT 10 PERCENT
FROM LAST YEAR.

FRANCE

THE TOTAL GRAIN AREA (EXCLUDING RICE) IS SAID TO BE DOWN 3 PERCENT (9.45 MILLION HA. AS COMPARED WITH 9.68 MILLION HA IN 1975). HOWEVER, THE WHEAT AREA AT 4.3 MILLION HA. IS UP 11 PERCENT. THE AREAS IN BARLEY AND CORN ARE DOWN 3 AND 29 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY. TOTAL GRAIN PRODUCTION (EXCLUDING RICE) IS ESTIMATED AT 31.7 MILLION TONS AS COMPARED WITH 35.6 MILLION TONS IN 1975. PRODUCTION OF WHEAT IS ESTIMATED AT 15.8 MILLION TONS (15 IN 1975). BARLEY PRODUCTION IS SAID TO BE DOWN 13 PERCENT, OATS 24 PERCENT AND CORN 35 PERCENT. POTATO PRODUCTION IS ESTIMATED AT 4.2 MILLION TONS AS COMPARED WITH 7.2 MILLION TONS IN 1975.

ITALY

GRAIN AREA IS 5 MILLION HA., UP SLIGHTLY FROM LAST YEAR. TOTAL GRAIN HARVEST (EXCLUDING RICE) IS ESTIMATED AT 16.1 MILLION TONS AS COMPARED WITH 15.5 IN 1975. PRODUCTION OF RICE IS ESTIMATED AT 781,000 METRIC TONS AS COMPARED WITH 807,000 IN 1975. POTATO PRODUCTION IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO OVER 3 MILLION TONS WHILE THE SUGAR BEET HARVEST AT ABOUT MILLION TONS IS EXPECTED TO BE DOWN SLIGHTLY.

NETHERLANDS

A SLIGHT INCREASE IN CORN PRODUCTION TO 1.14 MILLION TONS IS EXPECTED.

POTATO PRODUCTION IS ESTIMATED TO BE DOWN 500,000 TONS TO 4.5 MILLION TONS. A REDUCTION IN THE RAPESEED HARVEST - TO 32,000 TONS - IS ALSO ANTICIPATED.

BELGIUM/LUXEMBOURG

1976 GRAIN AREA IS SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN 1975. GRAIN PRODUCTION IS ALSO

EXPECTED TO BE ABOVE 1975 - TO 2 MILLION TONS AS COMPARED WITH 1.6 MILLION TONS LAST YEAR. SHARP DECLINES IN THE AREA OF BOTH POTATOES AND SUGAR BEET

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WERE REGISTERED POTATO PRODUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BE DOWN SHARPLY - FROM 1.3 MILLION TO 700,000 TONS.

UNITED KINGDOM

THE GRAIN HARVEST, AT 13.9 MILLION TONS, IS EXPECTED TO BE ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS THAN LAST YEAR. WHEAT PRODUCTION IS EXPECTED TO SURPASS 5 MILLION TONS (4.5 MILLION IN 1975) WHILE BARLEY PRODUCTION IS EXPECTED TO FALL TO 7.9 MILLION TONS (8.5 MILLION TONS IN 1975). POTATO AND SUGAR BEET YIELDS ARE EXPECTED TO BE WELL BELOW THE 1975 LEVELS.

IRELAND

THE TOTAL GRAIN HARVEST IS ESTIMATED AT 1.3 MILLION TONS - SLIGHTLY BELOW LAST YEAR.

DENMARK

THE GRAIN HARVEST IS ESTIMATED AT 59 MILLION TONS AS COMPARED
WITH 6.25 MILLION TONS IN 1975. THE BARLEY HARVEST IS EXPECTED TO BE
ONLY 4.8 MILLION TONS (5.2 MILLION TONS IN 1975).
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